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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Afghanistan: draft resolution

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Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/119 of 18 December 1992, 48/208 of 21 December 1993 and 49/140 of 20 December 1994 concerning emergency international assistance for the reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 8 November 1995, 1/

Concerned over the renewal of armed conflict, the attendant displacement of families and interruptions in the process of repatriating refugees to their homes,

Deeply concerned about the massive loss of human life, the aggravated suffering of the most vulnerable groups, the destruction of property and the serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure of Afghanistan caused by sixteen years of war, and stressing the importance of a return to peace and

1/ A/50/737.

stability for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan, bearing in mind that the country continues to suffer from an extremely critical economic situation as a land-locked, least developed and war-stricken country,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan headed by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri to help to bring about the restoration of peace, normalcy and national reconciliation and the objective of reconstruction and rehabilitation of war-stricken Afghanistan,

Deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel land-mines and unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan, which continue to prevent many Afghan refugees from returning to their villages and from working in their fields, and disturbed by reports of new mines being laid,

Concerned for the well-being of the unarmed civilian population of Afghanistan, in particular of Kabul, who face a long winter possibly deprived of basic foods, fuel and medicine as a result of a renewal of hostilities around the capital,

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and normalcy in Afghanistan and the ability of the country to take effective steps towards revitalizing the economy, and stressing the fact that a cessation of armed hostilities between the warring parties in Afghanistan is indispensable for reconstruction measures to have a lasting impact,

Affirming the urgent need to continue international action to assist Afghanistan in restoring basic services and the infrastructure of the country, and welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies in this respect,

Appreciating the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in its continuing support for the repatriation of Afghan refugees from neighbouring countries,

Reaffirming the principle of non-refoulement as contained in article 33 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,

Thanking all Governments that have rendered assistance to Afghan refugees, in particular the Governments of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and recognizing the need for continued international assistance for the maintenance abroad and the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons,

Expressing its appreciation to the States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have responded positively and continue to respond to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, as well as to the Secretary-General for his efforts to draw the attention of the international community to the acute problems of reconstruction in Afghanistan and for mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, 1/ and endorses the observations and recommendations set out therein;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to authorize the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, established under resolution 48/208, to continue its efforts to facilitate national reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts to develop plans for national reconstruction and rehabilitation beginning in areas of peace and security, on the basis of the recommendations contained in his report;

4. Calls upon all Afghan parties not to hinder in any way efforts by the United Nations and associated organizations to transport and distribute emergency humanitarian assistance to the Afghan population, particularly to the city of Kabul, and urges them to ensure full freedom of movement for the United Nations Special Mission;

5. Urgently appeals to all States, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, on a priority basis and as far as conditions on the ground permit, all possible financial, technical and material assistance for the restoration of the basic services and the reconstruction of Afghanistan and the voluntary, safe and secure return of refugees and internally displaced persons, and appeals to the international financial and development institutions to assist in the planning of the reconstruction of Afghanistan;

6. Calls upon the international community to respond to the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance for Afghanistan, launched by the Secretary-General for the period from 1 October 1995 to 30 September 1996, bearing in mind the availability also of the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the actions taken under the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session, under the cluster of items on coordination of humanitarian assistance, an item entitled "Coordination of international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".

B

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/140 of 20 December 1994 concerning Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan,

Recalling also the statements on Afghanistan of the President of the Security Council of 24 January, 23 March, 11 August and 30 November 1994, 2/

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 8 November 1995, 1/

Wishing the people of Afghanistan peace and prosperity,

Firmly committed to national reconciliation in Afghanistan, and to its sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity,

Emphasizing the importance of democracy and of the realization of human rights in any future political process in Afghanistan,

Deeply concerned by the lack of progress in coming to an agreement on the establishment of an acceptable and broadly representative "mechanism", transfer of power and an immediate and durable cease-fire,

Affirming the readiness of the United Nations to assist the people of Afghanistan in their effort to resolve internal political differences, facilitating national reconciliation leading to the restoration of a fully representative, broad-based government and to the start of the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction in their country,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan headed by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri to help to bring about the restoration of peace, normalcy and national reconciliation,

Expressing its support for the continuing efforts of the Special Mission, particularly the steps taken by that mission to begin a political process in which all segments of Afghan society are represented,

Appreciating the efforts of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in support of the Special Mission and the engagement of the OIC in Afghanistan, in coordination with the United Nations, with a view to achieving a just and lasting political settlement,

Noting with mounting concern the prolongation, and in some regions intensification, of armed hostilities among the parties in the country, including indiscriminate attacks on civilians and other violations of international humanitarian law, which have caused significant civilian casualties, displaced populations and destruction of the economic and social infrastructure of the country, in spite of repeated calls by the Security Council and the Secretary-General for a cessation of hostilities,

Deeply concerned about the recurring abuses of human rights in Afghanistan,

Reaffirming the call of the Security Council on all States to stop the flow of weapons to the parties in Afghanistan,

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2/ S/PRST/1994/4, 12, 43 and 77, respectively.

Bearing in mind the close interrelationship between ensuring peace and normalcy in Afghanistan and the ability of the country to take effective steps towards revitalizing the economy and stressing the fact that a cessation of armed hostilities between the warring parties in Afghanistan and political stability are indispensable for reconstruction measures to have a lasting impact,

Emphasizing the continued need for strong political support by the international community for the United Nations Special Mission and welcoming the Secretary-General's decision to strengthen the Mission,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, 1/ and endorses the observations and recommendations set out therein;

2. Expresses support for the decision of the Secretary-General to strengthen the Special Mission by stationing four additional political counsellors in Afghanistan and urges the Secretary-General to initiate the necessary arrangements as soon as possible;

3. Supports the Secretary-General in his efforts to pursue all possible means of cooperation with the Afghan parties as well as the Organization of the Islamic Conference and regional States, aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Afghanistan;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to authorize the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, established under resolution 48/208 and supported by the Office of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan, to continue its efforts to facilitate national reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan, in particular by ensuring transfer of power through the urgent establishment of a fully representative and broad-based authoritative council with authority, inter alia:

(a) To negotiate and oversee an immediate and durable cease-fire;

(b) To create and control a national security force to provide for security throughout the country and oversee the collection and safeguarding of all heavy weapons in the country as well as to stop the flow of arms and arms production-related equipment to the parties;

(c) To form an acceptable transitional government, which could, inter alia, control the national security force, until conditions for free and fair elections are established throughout the country, possibly utilizing traditional decision-making structures, such as a grand assembly, to help establish those conditions;

5. Reiterates its call upon all Afghans, especially the leaders of warring parties, to cooperate fully with the broad-based authoritative council, with priority being given to the implementation of the steps referred to in operative paragraph 4 of this resolution;

6. Urges the leaders of all Afghan parties to renounce the use of force and to settle their political differences by peaceful means;

7. Urgently calls upon all parties to strictly respect all provisions of international humanitarian law;

8. Calls upon all warring parties in Afghanistan to refrain from detaining foreign nationals and urges the captors of the members of the crew of the Russian aircraft in Kandahar to immediately release them;

9. Calls upon all States:

(a) To respect Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, strictly to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and to respect the right of the Afghan people to determine their own destiny;

(b) To take all steps necessary to promote peace in Afghanistan, to stop the flow of arms and arms production-related equipment to all parties and to put an end to this destructive conflict;

10. Supports the intention of the Secretary-General to move his office in Afghanistan (OSGA) to Kabul, as soon as the situation permits;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the fiftieth General Assembly every three months on the progress of the United Nations Special Mission and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".